

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

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Dear Motorcycle Enthusiast:

As you know, motorcyclist fatalities in California have increased significantly over the past ten years. This alarming trend must be reversed and effectively dealt with by California's vast motorcyclist community. To initiate this endeavor, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and its traffic safety partners, the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and Region 9 of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), met in late November 2007 to discuss productive ways to improve motorcyclist safety in the state. During the meeting, CHP, OTS, and NHTSA determined immediate action could best be spurred by holding an interactive, hands-on summit where motorcycle safety stakeholders, as well as advocacy and rider groups could share their knowledge and expertise. This shared expertise would serve as the basis for the development of a definitive plan to increase motorcyclist safety in the state. To that end, the first-ever **California Motorcycle Safety Summit (CMSS)** was held on May 21 – 23, 2008, in Irvine, CA.

The valuable input provided at the CMSS by all attendees has been compiled and finalized into a working document, **Summary: A Compendium of Ideas to Increase Motorcyclist Safety in California**. The document is offered for your review and consideration. Please note the CHP remains steadfast in its focus to improve motorcyclist safety in California but it does not necessarily endorse or support any specific ideas listed in the working document. As such, we encourage you to actively participate in this effort by identifying and assisting in the implementation of suggestions that fall under the purview of your respective organization or specific areas of interest.

The CHP, OTS, and NHTSA plan to closely monitor the progress of this effort over the next two years. Ideally, many, if not all suggestions contained in the working document will be addressed by 2010. After a comprehensive evaluation by CHP, OTS, and NHTSA in late 2009, we intend to highlight progress made and revisit continuing challenges at a future summit which will include an even wider base of motorcycle safety representatives.

We thank you for your interest and ongoing support to improve motorcyclist safety in California. For inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Special Projects Section at (916) 657-7222.

Sincerely,

J.E. McLAUGHLIN, Chief  
Planning and Analysis Division

*Safety, Service, and Security*